GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:100
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2000
RELAXATION OF FCI NORMS
JASWANT SINGH YADAV;RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have relaxed Food Corporation of India quality norms for paddy procurement in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some farmers have committed suicide following the failure to sell their crop in the grain market;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard alongwith details of the relief package announced by the Government for the States of Punjab and Haryana;

(f) whether any such package has been sought by other State Governments especially those hit by natural calamities; and
(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) & (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) & (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 100 FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 24-11-2000.

(a) & (b) : In order to mitigate the hardship of farmers and to allow the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and its agencies to procure paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Government of India has permitted, inrespect of the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, procurement of paddy with damaged, discoloured, sprouted andweevilled grains upto a maximum limit of 8% instead of 3% provided under the Uniform (FAQ) Specifications.

(c) & (d) : According to information available with the Government, no farmer has committed suicide due to the failure of FCI/State agencies to buy paddy.

(e) : The following concessions have been extended to Punjab and Haryana.

(i) The specifications of paddy for procurement have been relaxed as indicated above.

(ii) Paddy conforming to the above specifications will be procured at MSP.

(iii) Out turn ratio for custom milling of such paddy will be 64% for raw and 65% for parboiled rice.

(iv) It will be the responsibility of the State Governments to get thepaddy milled and deliver rice strictly conforming to the uniform specifications well within the current Kharif Marketing Season.

In addition to the above, it has been agreed that the farmers of Punjab, whose paddy had been purchased at a price below MSP, the State Government would make good the difference. The total expenditure arising out of this differential shall be restricted to a maximum of Rs.100 crores. The Ministry of Finance shall compensate to the Government of Punjab for thisexpenditure to an extent of 50%.

(f) & (g) : Similar concessions have been extended to Himachal Pradeshand Uttar Pradesh. Requests in this regard have also been received from the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan. These are under consideration.